

Broadband Funding Sources

Appalachian Regional Commission

<http://www.arc.gov/grants>

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) awards grants and contracts from funds appropriated to the Commission annually by Congress. Program grants are awarded to state and local agencies and governmental entities (i.e. economic development authorities), local governing boards (i.e. county councils) and nonprofit organizations (i.e. schools and organizations that build low-cost housing). Contracts are awarded for research on topics that directly impact economic development in the Appalachian Region.

****Application Deadline: February 11**

Community Connect Program (USDA)

http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_commconnect.html

The Community Connect program serves rural communities where broadband service is least likely to be available, but where it can make a tremendous difference in the quality of life for citizens. The projects funded by these grants will help rural residents tap into the enormous potential of the Internet.

****Application Deadline: May 3**

Farm Bill Broadband Program (USDA)

http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_farmbill.html

The Farm Bill Broadband Program is designed to provide loans for funding, on a technology neutral basis, for the costs of construction, improvement and acquisition of facilities and equipment to provide broadband service to eligible rural communities.

****Application Deadline: Applications accepted year round**

Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program (USDA)

http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_infrastructure.html

The Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program makes long-term direct and guaranteed loans to qualified organizations for the purpose of financing the improvement, expansion, construction, acquisition and operation of telephone lines, facilities or systems to furnish and improve telecommunications service in rural areas. All facilities financed must be capable of supporting broadband services.

****Application Deadline: Applications accepted year round**

Golden Leaf Foundation

<http://www.goldenleaf.org/seekers.html>

The Golden LEAF Foundation (GLF) funds projects that promise to bring significant economic improvement to the tobacco-dependent, economically distressed and/or rural communities of North Carolina.

****Application Deadline: One-page Letter of Inquiry due February 23 and April 20**

NC Rural Economic Development Center's NC STEP Program

<http://www.ncruralcenter.org/grant-applications-and-reporting-forms.html>

The NC Rural Economic Development Center's NC STEP program is designed to spur economic activity, innovation and job creation in selected small town sites through a program of strategic resource investments. The program has three primary goals: (1) support economic recovery and revitalization in small towns through job creation and business activity; (2) implement a comprehensive model of capacity building, technical assistance and grant making to spur revitalization efforts; and (3) provide vital information on public policies that support long-term investment in the economic vitality of North Carolina's small towns.

****Application Deadline: February 12**

NC Capital Access Program

<http://www.ncruralcenter.org/business-programs/capaccess.html>

The North Carolina Capital Access Program expands business finance options for businesses across the state. By reducing risk, it encourages banks and other qualified lenders to consider loans that otherwise fall just outside conventional underwriting standards. The program will enable up to \$800 million in business lending over two years, freeing capital in a tight credit market. Increasing access to capital helps build a stronger economy through job creation and business expansion.

****Application Deadline: Applications accepted year round**

Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

http://www.zsr.org/info_applicants.htm

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation makes grants to charitable, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organizations and government entities for programs and projects that serve the people of North Carolina. Some grants must be solicited in certain focus areas, but others can be made through their small grants programs.

****Application Deadline: February 1 and August 1**

Techsoup.org

<http://www.techsoup.org/stock/Default.asp?visit=1>

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